

THE
BOOKSELLER
TO
The READER.

THis History or Narrative of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level, coming to my Hands, I thought might be of good Use to inform such as are concern'd in the said Level, and yet may not well know the Constitution thereof. And 'tis hoped may also convince many that have had a prejudice against the Undertaking in general, without well considering and understanding the true State thereof. And that all Persons may see this Work is of great Advantage to all that Part of the Countrey where the Draining is, and hath been, and must still be carried on (the Preservation thereof) with great Charge and Industry: Which said Reasons, have induced me to make the same Publick, and hope 'twill find a favourable Interpretation, and answer the Ends Proposed.

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THE
HISTORY
OR
NARRATIVE

Of the *GREAT LEVEL*

OF THE

FENNS,

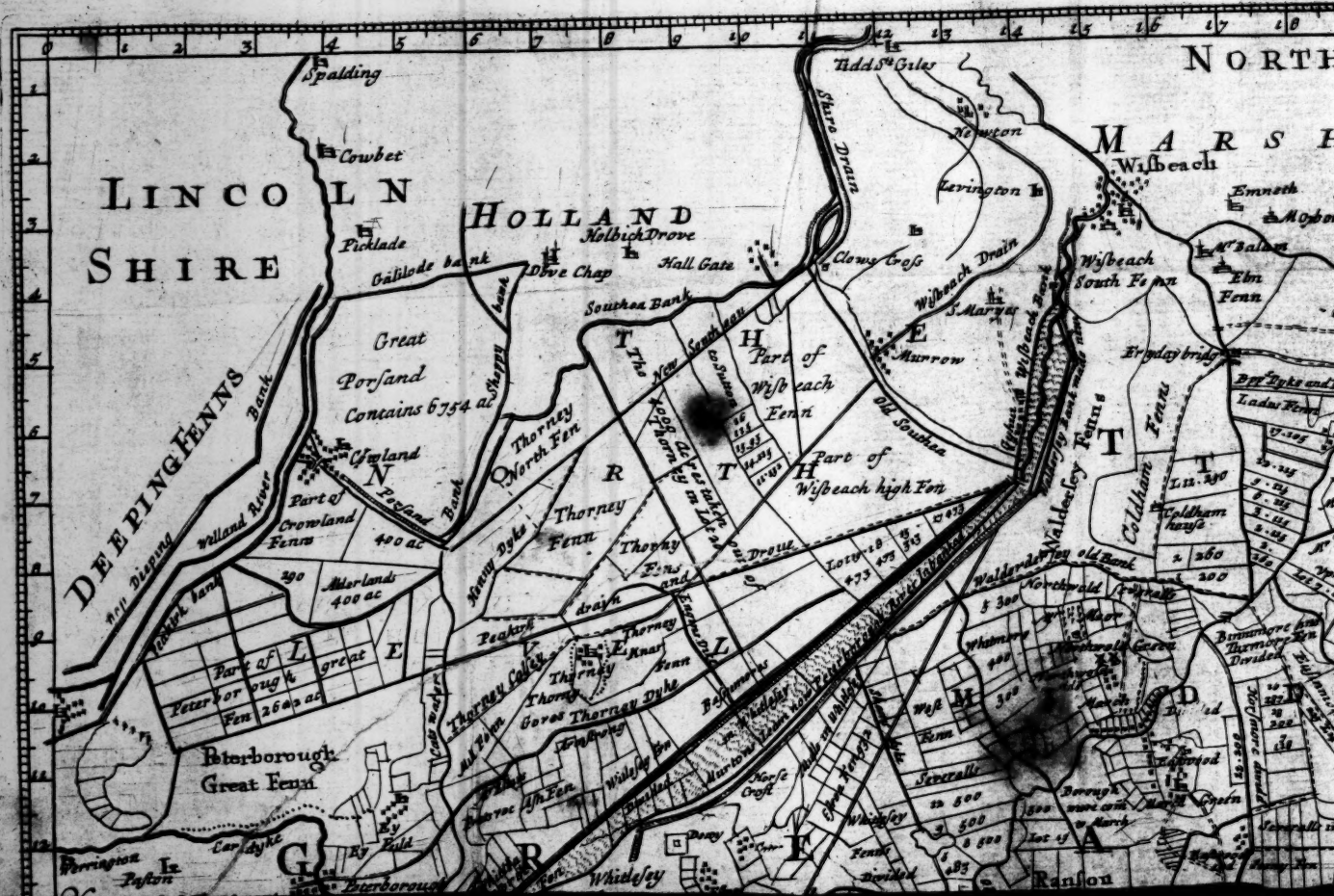
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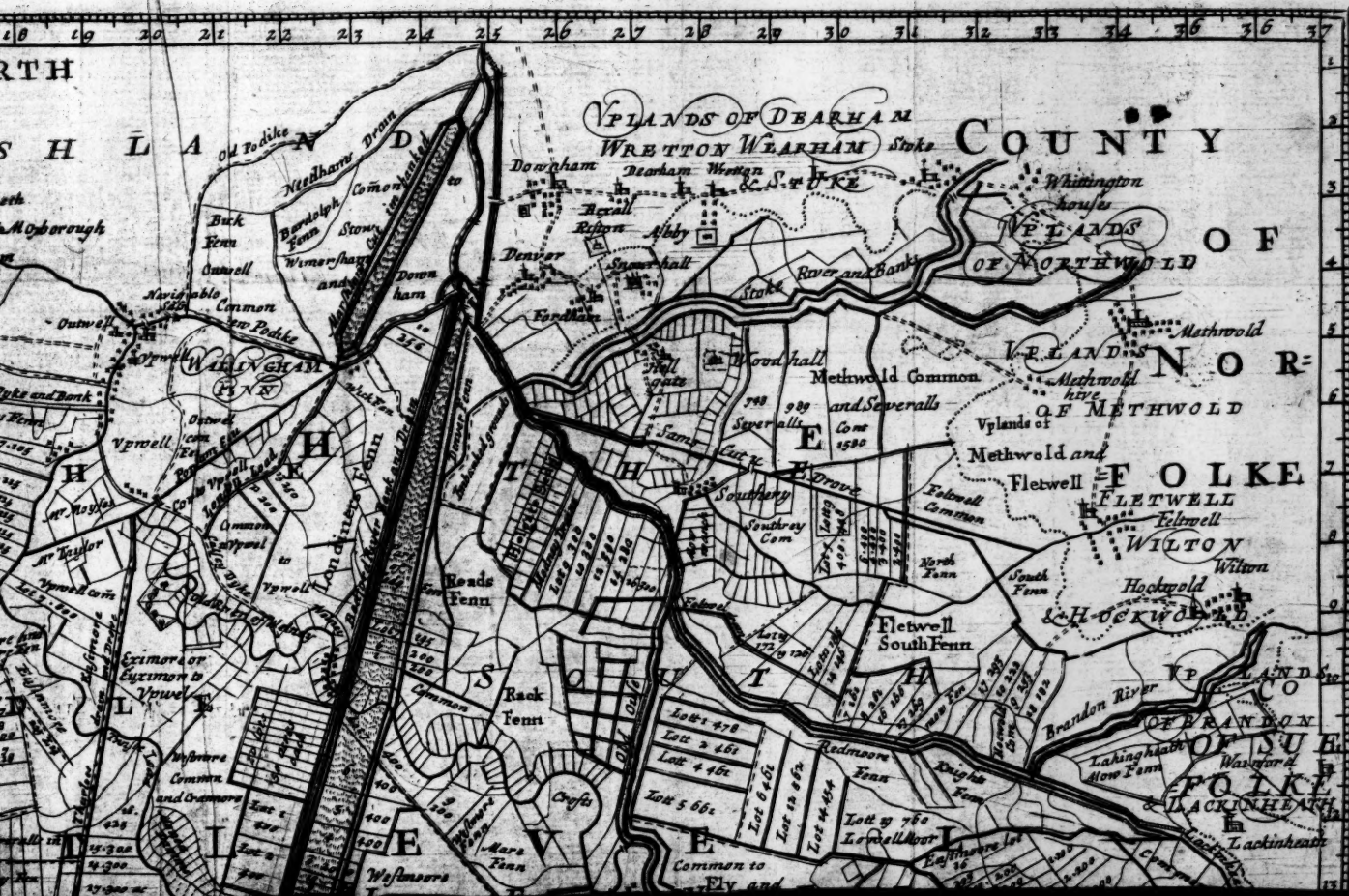
Bedford Level.

With a Large MAP of the said
LEVEL, as Drained, Surveyed, & Described
by Sir *Jonas Moore* Knight, His late Maje-
sties Surveyor-General of his Ordnance.

LONDON,

Printed for *Moses Pitt*, at the *Angel* in *St. Paul's*
Church-Yard, 1685.





NORTH
OF
PETERBOROUGH
AMPTON
SHIRE

PLANDS OF
THE SOAK
STANGROUND
OF STANGROUND

Jaxley
Jaxley cap
Silton
Caldicot

AND DENTON

THE
OF HOLM
GLATON

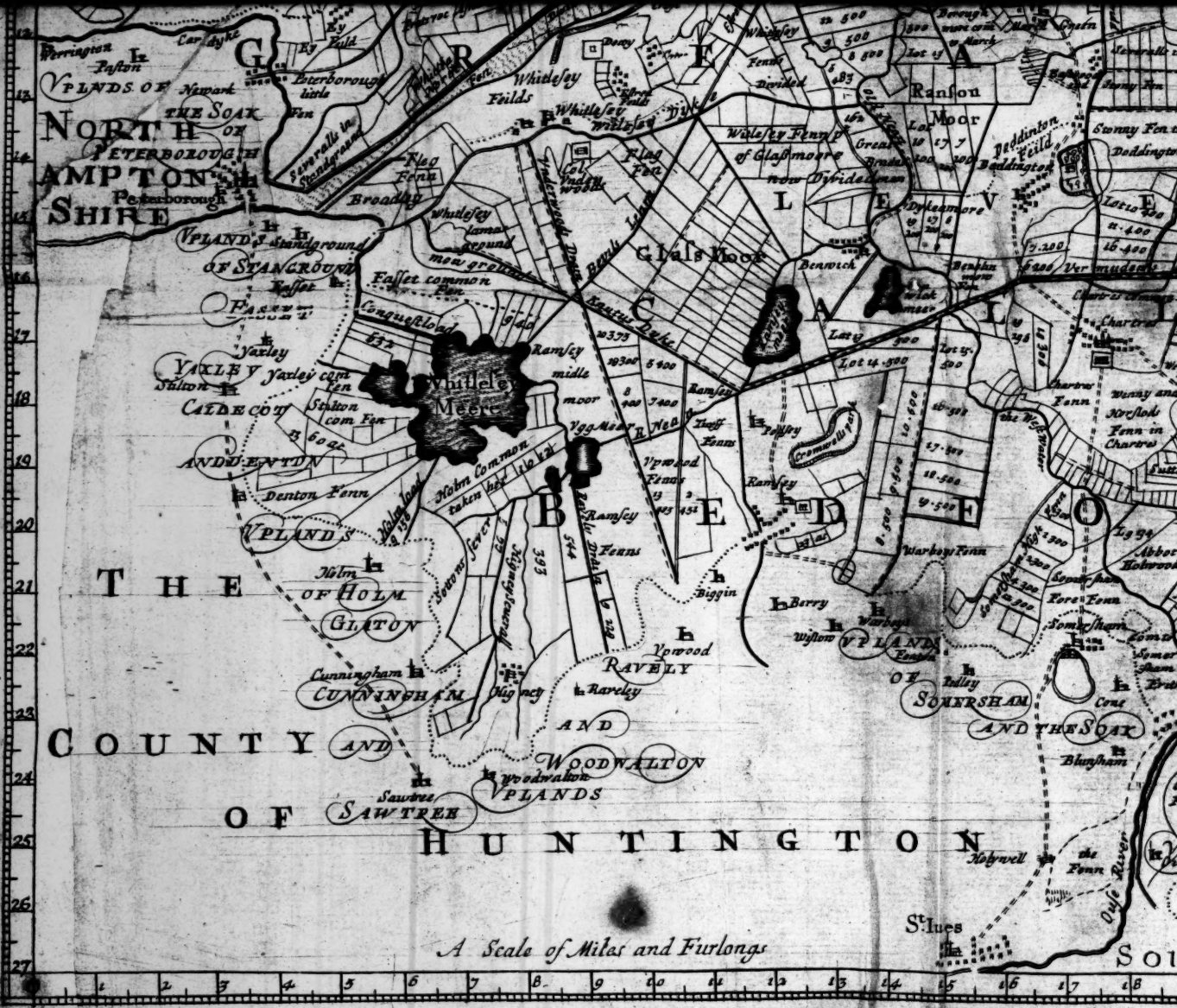
COUNTY AND

OF SAW TREH

WOODWALTON
PLANDS

HUNTINGTON

A Scale of Miles and Furlongs



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L O N D O N,

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THE
HISTORY

OF
NARRATIVE

OF GREAT EVENTS

OF THE
FENNS

CAUSED

By John Fenno.

With a large Map of the State.
LONDON: Printed and Sold by J. DODD, in Pall-mall.
1795.

ADAMS & CO.

Printed by J. DODD, in Pall-mall.

In this History or Narrative of
the *Great Level* of the *Fenns*,
called *BEDFORD LEVEL*, Is
set forth and Declared

How this Level was supposed to be many
Hundred years ago, and how come
to be afterwards Fenns, when Application
was first made for the Draining.

How many Attempts were made for the
Draining at vast Charges, and all be-
came fruitless. And afterwards under-
taken by Francis and William Earls of
Bedford. And what Proceedings were
had in the Draining under the pretended
Act of Parliament, in 1649.

How this Work of Draining was by His
late Majesty, King Charles the Second,
recommended to the Parliament. And
thereupon an Act passed in the Fifteenth of
his Reign, constituting a Corporation for the
Settlement and future Government thereof.

The Bounds and Extents of the Level in General.

The Powers given to the said Corporation.

A Particular of the several Lotts or Shares enjoyed by the Adventurers, and how Rated to the Draining.

The Division of the Level as now called 3 Levels. And what Proportion each Level Pays to Draining Taxes. And the several Rivers and Drains and Works of the Corporation made therein.

By-Laws made by the Corporation for better Preservation of their Works.

The great Advantage that this Draining is to the several Towns and Places within the respective Levels.

The Names of the present Corporation and their Officers, and how and by whom they are Yearly to be chosen. And the Oaths they take.

A Large Map of the said Great Level, as Drained, Surveyed and Described by Sir Jonas Moore, and now New Printed and Enlarged by Moses Pitt.

THE

THE
HISTORY
OR
NARRATIVE
OF THE
Great Level of the Fenns,
CALLED
BEDFORD LEVEL.

THIS Great Level contains about 300000 Acres of Fenny Ground, lying within the Counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Huntingdon, Northampton and Lincoln, as Survey'd and Described by Sir Jonas Moore; And in all probability, as appears by Historians and the relations following,

How this Level was supposed to be many Hundred years since, and how came to be Fenns.

was once firm dry Land, and not annoyed with any extraordinary Inundation from the Sea, or Stagnation of the fresh water. For there have been abundance of Timber Trees found of several kinds, but most Oak, and few severed from the roots, which stood below the Moore. When it is well known, that in Moore ground and water, Timber Trees will not thrive or grow. In making some of the Great Rivers, divers of the Trees were taken up, Six, Eight, Ten foot deep and upwards. And there also hath been found Stone and Bricks and other materials for Building, which shews that this *Moore* or *Fenn* hath covered over the face of the Land, and chang'd it from what it formerly had been. In setting down a *Sluce* there was found Sixteen foot deep a Smith's Forge, and all Tools thereunto belonging, and several Horse-shooes. This *Level* is bounded on all Parts (except by the Sea) with High Lands in form of an Horse-shooc, which maketh it much like a *Bay*, and in former times must have been a pleasant Countrey. The History of *William* of *Malmsbury*, (vouched by *Mr. Camden*) who lived about

about 1200 Years since, saith, That in his time, *Thorney Abbey* within this *Level*, now belonging to the Earl of *Redford*, was represented a very *Paradise*, for that, in pleasure and delight, it resembleth *Heaven* it self; [*In the very Marshes bearing Trees, that for their straight tallness, and the same without knots, strive to touch the Stars. A Plain there was as even as the Sea, which with green grass allureth the Eye: so Smooth and Level, that if any walk along the Fields, they shall find nothing to stumble at. There is not the least parcel of Ground that lyes wast and void there; here you shall find the Earth rising somewhere for Apple-Trees; there shall you have a Field set with Vines, which either creep upon the ground, or mount on high upon Poles to support them, &c.*] For in those dayes *Vineyards* were very frequent in *England*. The like may be said of the *Abbey of Cromland*, and of the *Great Lordship of Whittlesea*. Now by what means it came to pass to be so drowned, It is believed, that the *Ocean* at first did break into it, with such violence, as that the *Buildings* and *Woods*, then standing throughout the same, became turned
up

up by the roots ; and so great a proportion of *Silt* brought in, as not only for divers miles next towards the *Sea*, did cover the ground to an extraordinary depth, but to the remotest Parts, even to the *Verge* of the *High-Lands*, as by One further Discovery or Instance of late Years was seen, at the Skirt of *Connington* in *Huntingdonshire*, where upon making a *Pool* by Sir Robert Cotton Baronet, he found there a *Skeliton* of a large *Sea Fish* (near Twenty foot long as then conjectured) lying in perfect *Silt*, above Six foot below the *Superficies* of the ground, and as much above the present *Level* of the *Fenns*. But when and how that violent Breach and Inundation of the *Sea* was first made into this Countrey, is not positively known. Therefore it must be conjectured from the most rational probabilities, which is, That it was by some great Earthquake. That such dreadful Accidents have occasioned the like, We have unquestionable Testimony.

(a) Lib. 7. (a) *Coss. Valentiniano & Valente*, (saith
 xv. Anno the Tripartite History) *terra motus fa-*
Christi ctus, multas diruit Civitates, sed etiam
 CCCLXVIII. *Mare terminos proprios mutavit; et in*
quibus-

quibusdam locis in tantum ibi fluxit, ut loca
 quæ pridem ambulari poterant, remigaren-
 tur; ab aliis vero locis tantum recessit, ut
 arida tellus inveniretur. In the time of
 the Consulship of *Valentinian* and *Valens*,
 there was an Earthquake, which not only
 overthrew divers Cities, but altered
 the very Bounds of the Sea; which so
 flowed in some Parts, that men might
 Sail in those places, where before they
 did walk; and forsook other, that they
 became dry Land. The like relation of
 the same Earthquake, but somewhat more
 largely, doth *Amianus* (b) *Marcell.* make. (b) *Lib. 26.*
 And to the like purpose also is that
 of *Ovid's*,

(c) *Vidi ego quod fuerat quondam Soli-* (c) *Ovid*
dissima Tellus, *Meta. lib.*
Esse fretum; vidi factas ex æquore ter- *xv.*
ras;
Et procul à Pelago Concha jacuere Ma-
rina;
Et Vetus inventa est in montibus An-
chora Sammis.
Quodque fuit Campus, vallem decursus
aquarum

Fecit,

*Fecit, et eluvie Mons est deductus in
 aquor;
 Aequae paludosa siccis humus aret Are-
 nis.*

Thus Translated into English by G.
 Sandys.

*Where once were solid Lands, Seas have
 I seen,
 And solid Land where once deep Seas have
 been;
 Shells far from Sea like Quarries in the
 Ground,
 And Anchors have in Mountain Tops
 been found.
 Torrents have made a Valley of a Plain,
 High Hills by deluges born to the Main.
 Deep standing Lakes suckt dry by thirsty
 Sand,
 And on late Thirsty Earth now Lakes do
 stand.*

Who would imagine that the City of
 Gant in Flanders had been an Haven
 Town; yet that so it was about DCCC.
 years since, appeareth in the Life of
 Charles the Great, Written by the Lear-
 ned (d) Du Chesne. Neither do we
 want Examples here in some part of
 England

(d) Hist.
 Fran. 2.
 f. 48.

England of this kind; *Ratesborough*, other-
 wise called *Richborough* in *Kent*, (some-
 time a Colony of the *Romans*) was, or
 ever the River of *Sture* did turn his bot-
 tom or old Canale within the Isle of
Thanett, (as (f) *Leland* affirmeth) and (f) *Lel.*
 by likelihood the main Sea came to the Col. Vol. 3.
 very foot of the Castle; but now it is off p. 138.
 from it a Mile, by reason of the *Wose* that
 hath there swollen it up. So also (g) (g) *ib.*
Lymme-hill or *Lymme*, was sometime a f. 141.
 Haven and good for Ships that might
 come to the foot of the Hill. And *Rum-*
ney (four Miles distant from *Lymme-hill*)
 one of the Cinque-Ports, hath been a
 meetly good Haven, Infomuch (saith the
 same (h) *Leland*, who lived in King (h) *Ibid.*
Henry the Eighth's time) as within re- p. 142.
 membrance of Men, Ships have come up
 hard to the Town, and cast Anchor in
 one of the Church-yards; but is now
 two Miles from the Town, which is so
 fore decayed thereby, that where there
 were three great Parishes and Churches
 sometime, there is now scant one well
 maintained.

And concerning *Eye* in *Suffolk*, It is
 not a little observable what he likewise
 expresseth, viz. That it should seem an-
 ciently

Lel. Col.
 Vol. 3.
 p. 24.

ciently to have been in a manner totally encompassed with Waters; *Eye* in our English signifying an Island; but now (saith he) there is no such store tho' it be a moist place especially in the Winter Season; which manifestly sheweth, that it was heretofore a standing *Fenn*. Adding, That in old time, Barges came up thither from the Haven of *Chromar* or some Creek near unto it, there having been found by the Monks of *Eye*, in Scouring of their Ditches, large Rudders, done over with Pitch; as also Barge Nails, with other Naval Instruments, tho' then no Vessels came nearer to it, than *Burstan*, which is 12 Miles distant.

2b. p. 104.

And as some places have got from the Sea, so some other have lost, as may seem by *Skegnesse* in *Lincolnshire*, which was heretofore a great Haven Town (as the before specified Author relateth) and Walled, having a Castle; but the Old Town is clean consumed and eaten up of the Sea. Not unapplicable hereunto is therefore that of the Poet.

Hand procul hinc Stagnum, Tellus habitabilis olim, Ovid. Met. lib. 8.

Nunc celebres mergis, fulicisq; palustribus unda.

Hard by a Lake once habitable
ground,
Where Coots and fishing Cormorants
abound.

The Principal Rivers or Drains formerly passing through this Level were Eight, viz. Gleane, Welland, Neane, Ouze, Grant, Mildenhall, Brandon, and Stoake. The said Rivers had three several Outfalls from the Fens into the Sea, viz. Welland, Wisbich, and Salters Load by Lynn.

This Level is Broad and of a great Extent, and lyeth very flat, with little or no descent of its own, and was full of *Hassacks, Sedge, Reed, and Weeds* that the Waters could not go but slowly from the Lands, but came in swift from the Up-land Countreys, where the Rivers have great Falls. Also there were large Sands on the Sea side, thrown up by the Tides, which stop and choak the Outfall Rivers Mouth. At bottoming of
Wisbich

Wisbich River in the year 1635. Eight foot lower than the then Bottom, was found another Bottom, which was set with Stones and old Boats overwhelmed with the Silt that had lain many Ages. And so at digging of a Foundation for the *Great Sasse* at *Salters Load*, was found mixt Earth and Silt that had been cast up, and the natural Bottom Earth was above 10 foot deeper.

This *Level* being of so vast an Extent and great depth of fresh Water lying therein, That the Moore is encreased by such standing of the Waters in some places from 10 to 20 foot deep: So that instead of the benefit which this *Level* might receive from their Overflowings, in case they had enjoyed its free and natural Passage, and good Outfalls, it hath been made for the most part for divers Ages an unhealthful Stagnation of putrid and muddy Waters; The Earth spongy, unfast and boggy, such as are the inconveniencies of Drown'd Lands, and yielding no considerable Profit to the Inhabitants that bordered upon it.

When appli-
cation was
first made
for Drain-
ing.

The Inhabitants and Parts adjoining finding this to be their sad Conditions, having no Communication one with the other

other but by Boats; and sometimes in Winter, when the Ice was strong enough to hinder the passage thereof (and yet not able to bear a Man) the Inhabitants in the *Fenn Towns* could hardly get help of Food for Soul or Body, being so debarred of coming each to others assistance; therefore they did in several Kings Reigns represent this their sad Condition, and had divers *Commissions* of *Sewers* granted for the Cleaning and opening the Outfalls of the Waters to the Sea. But all was fruitless for want of a general Draining, whereby new *Rivers* and *Drains* imbanked might be made to carry off the Waters through so flat a Countrey.

Attempts made for Draining being fruitless till undertaken by Francis and VVil- liam Earls of Bedford.

At last they made it their Suit and Petition to *Francis Earl of Bedford*, that he would undertake the Work of *Draining*, which the said Earl consented then unto. And by Agreement was to have 95000 Acres to be set out in several Parts of the *Level*, together with the *Ways, Passages, Banks, Forelands, New Rivers, Cutts, Drains*, (and *Fishings* of the same) to be made by him or his Assigns; of which 12000 Acres thereof was to the King or his Assigns for his *Royal Assent*.

Lynn Law, 13 Jan. 6 Car. 1.

St. Ives
Law,
13 Car. 1.

Huntingdon
& Wisbich,
14 Car.

The said *Earl* having so taken this *Draining* upon him, Land was set out accordingly; And thereupon the said *Earl* admits divers Persons *Adventurers* and *Participants* with him; They cast 80000 Acres thereof into 20 Lotts or Shares, consisting of 4000 Acres to a Lott (as equal of Value as could then be well judged) and proceed therein to the spending of about 100000 *l.* But Complaints being still made that it was not Drained. Thereupon His Majesty King *Charles* the First, undertook the better Draining thereof, but was to have an Addition of 5000 Acres more, and went on with the perfecting the same, till the late unhappy Wars and Differences came, and then all lay wast, and so continued several years, till *William* now *Earl* of *Bedford* and his *Participants*, in the year 1649. did again undertake the said Works for his former Proportion of 95000 Acres, and proceeded so far therein as to perfect the same in manner as in the *Map* described, at their further Charge of about 300000 *l.* to the undoing of many, being a much greater Sum than the 95000 Acres are worth. But for the better encouraging the

the said *Earl* and his *Participants* in so great a Work, His late Majesty did recommend the Settlement and future Performance thereof unto the Parliament; who *Anno decimo quinto Caroli Secundi Regis*, made an Act for the Preservation thereof, Entituled, *An Act for Settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level.*

His Majesty K. Charles the Second's Recommendation to the Parliament, and their Passing an Act.

And by the said *Act* the *Bounds* thereof are settled as followeth.

15 Car. 2.

Eastward from the Bridge and Causeway of *Stoake* unto *Brandon Bridge* upon the Up-lands of *Northwold*, *Methwold*, *Feltham*, *Hockwold* and *Wilton*, in the County of *Norfolk*, and from *Brandon Bridge* unto the End of *Worlington Load* upon *Mildenhall River*, upon the Up-lands of *Brandon*, the Low Grounds of *Wainsford* excluding the same. The Up-lands of *Lakingheath*, the Low grounds of *Earswell* excluding the same. And the Up-lands of *Mildenhall* in the County of *Suffolk* Southward from *Worlington Load* unto *Burwell Block* upon the Up-lands of *Freckingham*, *Isleham*, *Fordham*, *Soham* and *Wicken* in the County of *Cambridge*, and excluding the Low grounds of *Burwell*, *Lanward*, and other places.

Bounds of the Levels

places lying Eastward from *Burwell Block* aforesaid; and from thence unto the *Mill* near *Anglesey Abbey* upon the *Uplands* of *Burwell*, *Reach*, *Swaffham Prior*, *Swaffham Bulbeck* and *Borsham* in the County of *Cambridge*. And from thence unto the *Ferrey-place* at *Clay-bith* upon the *Up-lands* called *Quy-hall*, the *Low ground* called *Low-fenn*, and the *Up-lands* of *Hormingsey* and *Clay-bith* in the said County, excluding the *Low grounds* called *Low-fenn & Offenn*, & from the said *Ferrey-place* unto *Overload* upon the *Uplands* of *Waterbeach*, *Cottenham*, *Rampton*, *Widelingham* and *Over* in the said County of *Cambridge*, and upon the *Low grounds* of *Swacey* in the said County, excluding the same Westward from *Erish* unto the *Damme* lately made upon the *River Neane* near *Standground* upon the *Up-lands* of *Somersham* and the *Soake* thereof, *Warbois*, *Wistow*, *Berrey*, *Ramsay*, *Upwood*, *Raveley*, *Woodwalton*, *Sawtre*, *Connington*, *Glatton* and *Holme*, *Caldcott*, *Denton*, *Silton*, *Taxley*, *Fassett* and *Standground* in the County of *Huntingdon*, excluding the *Low grounds* lying on the *North side* about the *River Ouze* about *Erish*; and from the said *Damme*

Damme unto *Peterborough Bridge* upon the said River of *Neane*, and thence unto the *Ferrey-place* near *Waldramhall* upon the Up-lands of *Peterborough*, and the *Soake* thereof, in the County of *Northampton*, and Northward from the said *Ferrey-place* near *Waldram-hall* unto *Crowland Bridge* upon the River of *Welland*; and from thence to *Dowfedale* upon the Bank of *Great Porsand*, and from thence to *Guyburne* upon the *South Ea Banke*, and from thence unto *Tilneyburne* upon the Bank of the Fenn ground called *Waldersea*, and from thence unto *Elme Leame* at *Granger's House* upon the Bank of the Fenn ground called *Coldham*, and from thence unto the River *Neane* near *Thurlings* in *Upwell* upon the Bank of *Needham* called *Bishops Dyke*, and from thence unto *Well-Creeke*, at the North-west Corner of *Wassingham Fenn*, upon the Bank of the Grounds in *Upwell* and *Ounwell*, called *Playfield* and *Churchfield*, excluding the aforesaid Fenns and Grounds called *Waldersea*, *Coldham*, *Needham*, *Playfield* and *Churchfield*. And from thence unto *Salters Load* upon the *New Podike Bank*, and from thence unto the Mouth of the

Note, *The River Wissey, upon the River Ouze, the Bounds and from thence unto Helgey Bridge of the Level are so upon the River Wissey, and from thence set, yet their unto the Up-lands at the end of the Works of Bank of the Grounds late of Edmund Draining Skipwith Esq; deceased, upon the said may and do Bank, and from thence unto Stoake extend fur- Bridge upon the Up lands of Roxham, ther, Deerham, Weereham, Wretton and Stoake on the said County of Norfolk; except the imbanked Grounds, late of Edmund Skipwith Esq; lying on the North side of the River Ouze.*

15 Car. 2. And constituted a Corporation by the
 Corporation Name of *The Governors, Bailiffs, and*
 for govern- *Commonalty of the Company of Conser-*
 ing the Le- *vators of the Great Level of the Fenns.*
 vel consti- Which Corporation consists of One
 ted, and Governor, Six Bailiffs, Twenty Con-
 their Pow- servators and Commonalty. And are
 ers, to use a *Common Seal*, and assemble and
 meet together, when, where, and as
 often as they please; and appoint a
 Register, Receiver, one or more Ser-
 jeants at Mace, and other Officers, and
 remove them at their Pleasures. And
 vesteth in the said Corporation all the
 aforesaid 83000 Acres, part of the said
 95000 Acres, with the Ways, Passages,
 New

New Rivers, Cutts, Drains, Banks, and Forelands made by *Francis* and *William* Earls of *Bedford*, and their *Participants*, according to such Parts & Proportions as they held or enjoy'd at the time of Passing the aforesaid *Act*, 15 *Car.* 2. to be held of the Mannor of *East Greenwich*, by fealty only in free and Common Soccage, and not otherwise. The remainder 12000 Acres, 10000 Acres thereof vested in His late Majesty King *Charles* the Second, who assign'd the same to His now Majesty, the 2000 Acres in the Earl of *Portland*.

The Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor, Bailiffs, or any of them to be two, maketh a *Quorum*, to act in all Cases as Commissioners of Sewers, and may lay Taxes only on the 95000 Acres, for Support, Maintenance, and Preservation of the said *Level*, and Levy the same with Penalties for Non-Payment, not exceeding the third part of the Tax. And all other things do in order to the Support, Maintenance, and Preservation of the said *Great Level*, and Works made, and to be made within or with-

out the said *Level*, for carrying the Waters of the *Level* to its Outfall, as they in their Judgments think best. And no other Commissioners of Sewers are to intermeddle in the said *Level*, or the Works thereunto belonging, out of the said *Level*.

All Conveyances of the 95000 Acres are to be entred with the Register, and no Leases, Grant or Conveyance of, or Charge out of, or upon the said 95000 Acres, or any part thereof (except Leases for Seven years or under) in Possession shall be of force, but from the time it shall be entred with the said Register as aforesaid, the Entrey whereof being endorsed by the said Register upon such Lease, Grant, Conveyance or Charge, shall be as good and effectual in the Law, as if the Original Book of Entreys were produced at any Trial at Law, or otherwise.

^{15 Car. 2.} The Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators by the said Act, were to meet on *Wednesday* and *Thursday* in *Whitsun-week* at the Shire-house at *Ely* to lay Taxes on the said 95000 Acres. And for all such Taxes & Penalties in Arrear four Months, they had Power then to Sell so much of the

the 95000 Acres, as would raise the Tax and Penalty then in Arrear. And the Person to whom the Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators should make Sale unto, ^{20 Car. 2.} should be a lawful Purchaser thereof (these days and times for laying Taxes are since altered by an Act made ^{20 Car. 2.} as hereafter is declared). By the said Act ^{15 Car. 2.} The Corporation have Power from time to time to Erect and make any New Works within or without the said *Great Level* for conveying the Waters of the said *Level* by convenient Outfalls to the Sea, they giving recompence and Satisfaction for what they shall so Cut and take out of several Grounds. If any Person shall Cut, throw down, or destroy any of the said Works for *Drain- ing*, made, or to be made as aforesaid ; The Parties offending shall answer treble Damages to the said Corporation, and Costs of Suit to be recovered in any Action of Trespas to be brought by the said Corporation in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record. And if such cutting, throwing down or destroying shall be maliciously done, the same shall be punished, as for Cutting the *Podike* in *Marshland*, which is Felony.

The

The said Governor, Bailiffs, Conservators and Commonalty upon *Wednesday* in *Whitsun-week* yearly (at a Publick Meeting to be then held by the said Corporation, or the greater Number then present (whereof the said Governor or one of the Bailiffs is to be one) are to Elect the Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators respectively, for the year ensuing. *Provided*, That none be capable to be or continue Governor or Bailiff, that hath not 400 Acres or more of the said 95000 Acres; nor to be a Conservator, that hath not 200 Acres or more of the said 95000 Acres; nor any of the Commonalty to have a Voice in Elections that hath not 100 Acres or more of the said 95000 Acres. The said Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators, or any of them may be removed by the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators, and Commonalty, or the greater number of them present at their Publick Meetings, whereof the said Governor, Bailiffs, or any of them to be two, and new chosen in the place of him or them so dead or removed. And the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators, are (before they take upon them to act) to take

take an Oath, *Well and truly to execute Office*; and likewise to take the Oath, ^{22 Hen. 8.} which by Law is to be taken by Com-^{Chap. 5.} missioners of Sewers. And the said Governor, Bailiffs, Conservators, and Commonalty are the Corporation for taking of the Accompts; And all other Matters may do, other than the acting as Commissioners of Sewers. And if any Suit be Commenced against the said Corporation, or any Person for any Matter or thing done in Pursuance of this Act, Then he or they shall or may Plead the general Issue, and give the special Matter in Evidence upon any Tryal to be had touching the same; which shall be as good and effectual in Law, as if the same had been specially Pleaded: And the Jury upon the Tryal to give a Verdict accordingly.

By the said Act 'tis declared, That if any Breaches happen in any of the Banks, Sluces, &c. or other Works of *Draining* in or out of the said *Level*, for the carrying the Waters of the said *Level* to the Outfalls at Sea, That the same are to be repaired by the said Corporation in convenient time, but no other charge to be laid on the said Corporation; nor
to

to give any Recompence for any Loss or Damage, which hath or shall happen by reason of their making such necessary and sufficient Works for defending the said *Level* from being overflown, and for leading the Waters of the *Level* in their Chanals.

The 80000 Acres, part of the 95000 Acres, which were at the first undertaking cast into *Lotts*; Every Adventurer then had his Share in that Division of good and bad Land, and all Land taxed alike *per Acre*; But afterwards being divided into divers Hands, as People become Purchasers of good or bad, the bad Land alone would not bear the burthen of the Tax, for that there being much difference in the Soil of the said Lands, and some part much more subject to Overflowing than others, and not capable to be so well Drained. Therefore by Act 20 *Car.* 2. The Power given to the Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators for their laying of Taxes and Selling Land for Non-Payment was altered from *Whitsun-week* unto *Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday* after the first *Sunday* in *April* in every year, and at no other time (the time of
the

the year being found then most convenient). And by the said Act for the Reasons aforesaid the 95000 Acres were for future to be rated by way of a Gradual Acre Tax of Eleven Degrees or Rates, as are particularly hereafter mentioned in the *Lotts*. Except the 12000 Acres which are rated at 1 s. 3 d. per Acre, when the 83000 Acres are taxed at 6110 l. 7 s. 1 d. $\frac{1}{2}$. and so in Proportion. And the Serjeant at Mace of the *Great Level*, by Precept under the Seal of the Corporation in the Nature of a Writ of *Habere facias Possessionem* at Common Law, is to deliver Possession unto such Purchaser as shall Purchase for Non-Payment of Taxes, any part of the said 95000 Acres.

Several other Powers and Authorities are granted to the said Corporation by the aforesaid Acts of Parliament, as by the said Acts may appear.

There

There is of the 83000 Acres part
of the 95000 Acres of *Adventure*
Land 80000 Acres divided into
20 *Lotts* or *Shares*, 4000 Acres
in each *Lott*. The Remainder
3000 Acres lyeth Overplus. The
20 *Lotts*, and how rated, now to
the *Draining Taxes* are as fol-
loweth.

First Lott.

Sorts rated.		Acres.	r.	p.
5	H	Addenham Common A.	100	0 00
70 ³ 62		Botsham High Fenn---	140	0 00
70 75		6 Sutton Meadlands next Middlemore	131	0 00
		3 Westmore N ^o Bedford River A.---	400	0 00
		3 Coveney Severals A.---	073	0 00
4		Helgey Common by Capt. Skip- with's Bank. ---	318	0 00

2	Townemoores, Arkinfall, <i>Unley</i> Several, Eastmore or Little <i>Shell</i> , and Thompson's Fenn in <i>Lakingheath</i> , and the two Sedge Fenns, and Coplow Fenn in <i>Mildenhall</i> A. ————	200	0	00
4	Whelpmoore, Lowellmoore and Spaindelfe A. ————	478	0	00
4	Stuntney Common. ————	032	0	00
4	Stuntney Farm. ————	022	0	00
4	Stuntney small Severals. ————	012	0	00
3	Part of <i>Thorney</i> . ————	100	0	00
4	One Several in <i>Woodwalton</i> . ————	015	0	00
3	Grunt Fenn A. ————	100	0	00
3	Beezlings Fenn in <i>Doddington</i> . ————	344	0	00
3	Creek Fenn in <i>Doddington</i> A. next <i>March</i> . ————	200	0	00
4	Stoney Fenn and Block Fenn Common A. ————	500	0	00
5	Somersham Common A. ————	300	0	00
4	Great <i>Bradnymoore</i> a Several in <i>Doddington</i> . ————	162	2	00
4	Severals of <i>Doddington</i> . ————	032	2	00
2	<i>Hale</i> Fenn Common, and Sedge Fenn a Several by <i>Welney</i> next <i>Welney</i> A. ————	200	0	00
5	Severals of <i>Well</i> and <i>Welney</i> . ————	040	0	00
3	<i>Westmoore</i> N°. ————	050	0	00
2	<i>Westmoore</i> S°. ————	050	0	00

 4000 0 00

Second Lott.

Lots.		Acres. r. p.
5	Haddenham Common B. —————	100 0 00
5	Sutton in North Fenn. —————	272 0 00
3	Westmoore North B. —————	400 0 00
3	Coveney Severals B. —————	073 0 00
1	Methwold Common, and Feltwell } North Fenn A. ————— }	400 0 00
1	Townemoores in Lakingheath, &c. B. —————	200 0 00
4	Whelpmoore, &c. B. —————	461 0 00
4	Lades Fenn A. next unto Creek Fenn. —————	115 0 00
1	Botsham, Quy & Ditton part inter- } Common A. next Botsham Load. — }	100 0 00
4	Langwood Fenn in Chartresse A. —————	300 0 00
3	Creek Fenn in Doddington B. —————	260 0 00
4	Stoney and Block Fenn Common B. —————	400 0 00
4	Severals in March. —————	068 0 00
4	Somersham Common B. —————	300 0 00
2	Upwood Fenn, lying next towards } Ramsey. ————— }	451 0 00
2	Westmoore South, the 20th peece } from Welney. ————— }	050 0 00
3	Westmoore North. —————	050 0 00

4000 0 00

Third

Third Lott.

Solrs:	Acres.	r.	p.
2 Isleham Common, A. —————	250	0	00
3 Middleditch Fenn in Wivelingham. c77	1	00	
11 Great Shelfould in Wivelingham. —012	3	00	
11 Sutton the remainder of North Fenn, And the Middle next towards Chartrès Fenns, and 6 0 26 in West Fenn adjoining. ————	032	0	00
4 Westmore North. ————	200	0	00
3 Westmore South, A. ————	200	0	00
2 Ramsey Severals A. ————	073	0	00
5 Methwold Common, &c. B. ————	400	0	00
1 Townmoores, &c. C. ————	200	0	00
1 Brandon Commons. ————	350	0	00
3 North Cloud a Common of Laking- heath. ————	058	0	00
4 Severals of Lakingheath, A. ————	052	0	00
3 Ladys Fenn, B. ————	115	0	00
3 Grunty Fenn, B. ————	100	0	00
3 Langwood Fenn, B. ————	300	0	00
4 Whitmoore in Doddington, A. the Parcel of 300 Acres diked out. ————	300	0	00
4 Stoney and Block Fenn Common, C. 400	0	00	
4 Ensfmoore, Well Pingle and Far- mers Fenn, A. ————	500	0	00

3	Connington Severals A. in the greater Fenn. ————	200	0	00
4	Well and Welney Severals. ————	079	0	00
3	Westmoore North N. the Thirteenth, &c. ————	050	0	00
2	Westmoore South S. &c. ————	050	0	00
		4000	0	00

Fourth Lott.

Sorts.	Acres.	r.	p.
5 Haddenham Common C. ————	100	0	00
7 Barway Middle and Fordy in Soham. ————	231	0	00
5 Honey Fenn in Chartres. ————	040	0	00
2 Westmoore South B. ————	400	0	00
5 Ramsey Severals B. ————	074	0	00
1 Methwold Common, &c. C. ————	400	0	00
1 Townemoores, &c. D. ————	200	0	00
4 Whelpmoore, &c. C. ————	461	0	00
3 Sir Miles Sandy's imbanked ground B. ————	115	0	00
3 Grunty Fenn C. ————	126	0	00
4 Wenny Fenn in Chartres. ————	300	0	00
4 Whitmoore in Doddington B. next unto the 300 Acres diked out ————	400	0	00
3 Eufymoore, &c. C. ————	548	0	00
4 Somersham C. ————	300	0	00
2 Felwell Severals D. ————	080	0	00
2 Caldecott Severals. ————	056	0	00
3 Mr.			

3	Mr. Tirrill's ground by Priests	}	027	0	00
	Houses 24. and 3. ———				
4	Severals of Doddington. ———		042	0	00
3	Westmoore North E. the Fifth, &c. ———		050	0	00
2	Westmoore South K. &c. ———		050	0	00

4000 0 00

Fifth Lott.

Sorts		Acres.	r.	p.
5	Haddenham Common D. — — —	078	0	00
5	Strecham Common. — — —	172	2	00
5	Sutton South of Bedford River next unto the Fenns of Haddenham and Wentworth. — — —	}	120	0 00
2	Westmoore South C. — — —			
5	Berrey Mowe Fenn. — — —			
7	Ramsay Severals D. — — —	008	0	00
5	Wickham Common 10 Acres, and Seyeral A. 4 Acres. — — —	}	014	0 00
5	Chartres Severals. — — —			
3	Deereham Commons. — — —	200	0	00
3	Lakingheath Townmoores, &c. — — —	200	0	00
5	Whelpmoore, &c. D. — — —	661	0	00
3	Knights Fenn in Hockwold and Redmoore grounds A. — — —	}	111	0 00
6	Throcken-bolt by Clows Cross A. next Clows Cross. — — —			
		}	005	0 00

4	Grunty Fenn, D.	—	—	100	0	00
3	Norwold Common, A. next unto	}	—	200	0	00
	Stoake Bridge.					
3	West Fenn and West Fenn Close, A.	—	—	483	0	00
3	Whitmoore, C. next unto Wisbich	}	—	300	0	00
	Fenns.					
4	Somersham Commons, D.	—	—	300	0	00
4	Middlemoore in Ramsey, A.	—	—	400	0	00
3	Connington Severals, B.	—	—	081	0	00
5	Severals of Well and Welney.	—	—	016	0	00
2	Westmoore South, R. the fourth	}	—	050	0	00
	piece from Welney.					
3	Westmoore North.	—	—	050	0	00
				4000	0	00

Sixth Lott.

Sorts.		Acres.	r.	p.
	Isleham, B.	—	—	250 0 00
11	Clattocks or Longbridge in Wivel-	}	—	053 0 00
	ingham.			
11	Babyshurne in Wivelingham.	—	—	013 3 00
11	Upmeare Farm in Wicken.	—	—	005 0 00
5	Lanmas Ground in Wicken, near	}	—	023 1 00
	Upmeare Farm.			
6	Sutton in Meadlands, next to the	}	—	025 0 00
	Grounds mentioned in the first			
	Lott.	—	—	

2 West-

2	Westmoore South, D.	—	—	400	0	00
4	Mepall Severals, A.	—	—	073	0	00
1	Methwold, &c. D.	—	—	400	0	00
2	Townemoores, &c. F.	—	—	200	0	00
2	Whelpmoore, &c. E.	—	—	461	0	00
4	Ladus Fenn, C.	—	—	115	0	00
2	VVeereham, VVretton, and Stoake	}	—	336	0	00
	Common next towards Stoake.					
4	Gurfe and Gore in Chartres, A.	}	—	200	0	00
	next Chartres.					
3	Dicamoore next VVestwater.	—	—	156	0	00
3	Horsemoore in Doddington, A.	—	—	200	0	00
3	Eufymoore, &c. B.	—	—	500	0	00
2	Hale Fenn and Sedge Fenn by Wel-	}	—	200	0	00
	ney, B.					
5	Severals of VWell and VVelney.	—	—	289	0	00
3	Westmoore North, C.	—	—	050	0	00
2	Westmoore South, H. &c.	—	—	050	0	00
				4000	0	00

Seventh Lott.

Sorts.	Acres.	r.	p.
2	Isteham Common, C.	—	230 0 00
3	VWilburton Common and Several.	—	124 0 00
9	Rampton Commons.	—	016 0 00
8	VWestmoore South, E.	—	400 0 00
2	Mepall Severals, B.	—	075 0 00
C 3			
4 Meth-			

4	Methwold, &c. E.	— — — — —	400	0	00
1	Townemoores, &c. G.	— — — — —	220	0	00
2	Feltwell South Fenn and Mowe	}	161	0	00
	Fenn A. — — — — —				
2	Mildenhall burnt Fenn, Ely great	}	300	0	00
	Shell and Shippey A. — — — — —				
3	Sir Miles Sandy's imbanked ground	}	115	0	00
	C. next Crouchmoore — — — — —				
3	Sir Henry Willoughby's Several in	}	076	0	00
	Southery West of the River Ouze.				
4	Curfe and Gore in Chartres B. next	}	200	0	00
	Doddington. — — — — —				
4	Dicamoore in Doddington A.	— — — — —	200	0	00
3	Horsemoore B.	— — — — —	200	0	00
2	Hale Fenn and Sedge Fenn by Wel-	}	195	0	00
	ney C. next unto the remaining				
	part of Sedge Fenn. — — — — —				
2	Eufymoore, &c. D.	— — — — —	500	0	00
3	Middlemoore in Ramsfey B.	— — — — —	400	0	00
3	Sir Oliver Cromwell's Severals in	}	108	0	00
	Ramsfey A. — — — — —				
3	Westmoore North K. &c.	— — — — —	050	0	00
2	Westmoore South O. &c.	— — — — —	050	0	00
			<hr/>		
			4000	0	00
			<hr/>		

Eighth Lott.

Sorts.	Acres.	r.	p.
3 <i>Swafham</i> High Fenn A. ———	200	0	00
8 <i>Haddenham</i> Severals. ———	138	0	00
11 <i>Sutton</i> South of <i>Bedford</i> River. ———	032	0	00
5 <i>Byall</i> Fenn A. ———	400	0	00
4 <i>Mepall</i> Common. ———	053	0	00
4 Severals of <i>Mepall</i> C. ———	022	0	00
4 <i>Helgey</i> and <i>Southerney</i> Com- mons A. ———	300	0	00
3 <i>Lakingheath</i> , &c. H. ———	200	0	00
1 <i>Mildenhall</i> , &c. B. ———	300	0	00
2 <i>Feltwell</i> South Fenn and <i>Mowe</i> Fenn B. ———	161	0	00
3 <i>Knights</i> Fenn and <i>Redmoor</i> grounds B. ———	115	0	00
2 <i>Botsham</i> , <i>Horningsey</i> , &c. B. ———	100	0	00
2 <i>Norwold</i> Common by <i>Stonke</i> North of <i>Wiffey</i> . ———	029	0	00
1 <i>Langwood</i> Fenn in <i>Chartres</i> . ———	320	0	00
7 <i>West</i> Fenn and <i>West</i> Fenn Close B. ———	525	0	00
4 <i>Middlemore</i> C. ———	400	0	00
3 <i>Poolings</i> in <i>Hockwold</i> . ———	100	0	00
3 <i>Sir John Watt's</i> grounds in <i>Lond-</i> <i>ners</i> Fenn. ———	352	1	00
1 <i>Hen Middle</i> <i>Londiners</i> Fenn ———	010	0	00
4 Severals of <i>Doddington</i> . ———	042	3	00

3	Westmoore North, &c. O.	—	—	050	0	00
2	Westmoore South, C.	—	—	050	0	00
				4000	0	00

Ninth Lott.

Sorts.		Acres.	r.	p.	
7	Denver Fenn South of Bedford River.---	124	0	00	2
6	Mr. Wendye's Ground in Chartres.	234	0	00	3
4	Widdon Severals in Mepall.	008	0	00	2
11	Bream Farm by Ely.	004	0	00	
2	Westmoore South, F.	200	0	00	
4	Byall Fenn, B.	200	0	00	
3	Coveney Severals C.	075	0	00	
3	Helgey and Southercy Commons, B.	300	0	00	
2	Mildenhall, &c. C.	300	0	00	So
3	Townemoores, &c. I.	200	0	00	8
1	A Several in Lakingheath by Crossewater.	008	0	00	9
3	Hockwold and Wilton Common, A.	253	0	00	
2	Ladus Fenn, D.	115	0	00	8
4	Read's Fenn in Helgey.	360	0	00	
3	Swasbam Sedge Fenn 180 Acres, part of high Fenn 5 Acres, part of Croyle 4 Acres.	189	0	00	5
1	West Fenn and West Fenn Close C.	500	0	00	7
3 VVar-					

3	Warbois Fenn, Wistow Fenn, Ramsey, Eastmoore and Pulver Fenn, and Turfe Fenn in Dod-	500	0	00
	dington, A. ————			
2	Denton Common. ————	156	0	00
4	Knobballs in VVelney South of Bedford River. ————	019	0	00
2	Common-peice of VVelney. ————	134	0	00
2	Loveakes, a several adjoining to Common-peice. ————	021	0	00
3	Westmoore North, T. &c. ————	050	0	00
2	Westmoore South, T. &c. ————	050	0	00
		4000	0	00

Tenth Lott.

Sorts.	Acres. r. p.
8 Denver Fenn North of Bedford River. ————	256 0 00
9 Several of Denver by the Grounds of VVel. ————	004 0 00
8 Sir Henry Willoughby's Several in Southery East of Ouzg. ————	076 0 00
5 Lammas Grounds in Wicken, next unto High Fenn. ————	021 0 00
7 Mr. Barrow's imbanked Ground in Wicken. ————	007 0 00

2 Stacks

2	Stacks in Wivelingham. ———	—	007	0	00	4
2	Croyle in Swafham A. next the	}	200	0	00	2
	Hard Lands. ———					
- 2	Burwell Common A. ———	—	247	0	00	
2	Sir Edward Peyton's Sedgely Seve-	}	014	0	00	3
	ral in Wicken. — — —					
6	Rowey in Somersham. ———	—	011	0	00	5
3	Helgey and Southercy Common C. —	—	300	0	00	3
1	Townemoores, &c. K. ———	—	200	0	00	2
2	Mildenhall, &c. D. ———	—	300	0	00	
3	Hockwold and Wilton Common B. —	—	222	0	00	
1	Littleport Severals A: ———	—	041	0	00	
4	Mr. Gibbon's ground, called War-	}	115	0	00	
	ners, A. next Redmoore. ———					
3	Botsham, & Horningscy, &c. C. —	—	100	0	00	So
1	Norwold Common B. ———	—	200	0	00	5
3	Normoore in Chartres A. next to	}	400	0	00	5
	Honey. — — —					
4	Warbois, &c. B. ———	—	500	0	00	
3	Horsemoore, &c. D. ———	—	287	0	00	5
3	Sir Robert Bell's ground in Londi-	}	136	2	00	4
	ners Fenn. — — —					
4	Sir Lewis Tresham's grounds in	}	093	1	00	4
	Londiners Fenn. ———					
4	Mr. Fincham's ground in Londi-	}	011	3	00	3
	ners Fenn. — — —					
4	The Ground in Londiners Fenn,	}	013	1	00	1
	late Mr. Fincham's. ———					

00	4	Part of <i>Sedge Fenn</i> in <i>Welney</i>	}	001	0	00
00		North of <i>Beaford</i> River, Eastward.				
00	2	Part of <i>Knoballs</i> in <i>Welney</i> North	}	009	0	00
00		of <i>Bedford</i> River. ———				
00	3	Three Severals in <i>Well</i> , lying be-	}	065	0	00
00		tween <i>Popham's Eau</i> and <i>Newdike</i> .				
00	5	Severals in <i>Doddington</i> . ———		062	1	00
00	3	<i>Westmoore</i> North, H. &c. ———		050	0	00
00	2	<i>Westmoore</i> South, &c. ———		050	0	00
00						
00				4000	0	00

Eleventh Lott.

00	Sorts.			Acres.	r.	p.
00	5	<i>Neatmoore</i> in <i>Upwell</i> A. ———		250	0	00
00	5	<i>Middlemore</i> in <i>Sutton</i> . ———		037	0	00
00	5	<i>Corkeiff's</i> and <i>Mr. Jetherell's</i> Ham-	}	006	0	00
00		let in <i>Sutton</i> . ———				
00	5	<i>West Fenn</i> near unto <i>Sutton</i> Mead-	}	076	0	00
00		lands A. ———				
00	4	<i>Byall Fenn</i> C. ———		400	0	00
00	4	<i>Mepall</i> Severals of <i>Mr. Cartev's</i>	}	018	0	00
00		by <i>Turfe Fenn</i> . ———				
00	3	<i>Coveney</i> Severals D. ———		056	0	00
00	2	<i>Methwold</i> , &c. F. ———		488	0	00
00	1	<i>Townemoores</i> , &c. L. ———		200	0	00
00	3	<i>Norney Farm</i> . ———		079	0	00
00	4	<i>Littleport</i> Severals B. ———		203	0	00
rt				3	<i>Roxham</i>	

3	Roxham Common. ———	—	094 0 00	2
5	Sutton in Holland, A. next unto } the Wride. ——— ——— ———		115 0 00	6
4	Pymoore near Wichford. ———	—	152 0 00	1
4	Normoore in Chartres, B. ———	—	400 0 00	5
4	The Middle in Doddington. ———	—	200 0 00	3
3	Warbois, &c. C. ———	—	500 0 00	2
3	Raveley Fenn in Ramsay. ———	—	229 0 00	1
4	Sir William Cockaines ground in } Londiners Fenn. ——— ———		171 0 00	4
2	Part of Sedge Fenn in Welney, } lying next of Bedford River. ———		010 0 00	4
1	Feltwell Severals, A. ———	—	216 0 00	1
3	Westmoore North, &c. A. ———	—	050 0 00	3
2	Westmoore South, &c. S. ———	—	050 0 00	3
			<hr/> 4000 0 00 <hr/>	4
			<hr/> — — — <hr/>	3
				2

Twelfth Lott.

Sorts.		Acres. r. p.	
4	Waterbeach, Joyst Fenn, Lammas } Ground adjoyning unto Joyst Fen, and the Several Grounds of Sir Ed- } ward Peyton and Mr. Dalton, A. --- }	250 0 00	So
5	Sutton Grounds, South of Bedford } River, lying nexts to the Grounds } of Sutton of the first Lott. ——— }	109 2 00	4
5	Part of Sutton West Fenn, B. ———	010 2 00	7
		2 Croyle	3

2	<i>Croyle in Swafham, B.</i>	—	—	200	0	00
6	One Several in <i>Woodwalton.</i>	—	—	036	0	00
1	The remainder of <i>Sawtre Fenn</i>	}	—	006	2	00
	from the King's part.					
5	Severals of <i>Chartres, A.</i>	—	—	230	0	00
3	<i>Helgey and Southery Common, D.</i>	—	—	300	0	00
2	<i>Townemoores, &c. M.</i>	—	—	200	0	00
1	<i>Whelpmoore, &c. F.</i>	—	—	562	0	00
4	<i>Ladus Fenn, E.</i>	—	—	115	0	00
4	<i>Downham in the Isle Common</i>	}	—	390	0	00
	and Severals.					
1	<i>Elme Common and Severals.</i>	—	—	250	0	00
3	<i>West Fenn and West Fenn Close, D.</i>	—	—	500	0	00
3	<i>Stoney and Block Fenn Common, D.</i>	—	—	400	0	00
3	<i>Somersham Common E.</i>	—	—	333	0	00
4	<i>Langbeach, a Several in Upwell.</i>	—	—	007	2	00
3	<i>Westmoore North, &c. F.</i>	—	—	050	0	00
2	<i>Westmoore South, &c. M.</i>	—	—	050	0	00
				4000	0	00

Thirteenth Lott.

Sorts.		Acres.	r.	p.
4	<i>Neatmoore by Upwell, B.</i>	—	—	250 0 00
7	<i>Wicken High Fenn, A. next to-</i>	}	—	120 0 00
	<i>wards Wicken.</i>			
3	<i>Hale Fenn near Coveney.</i>	—	—	180 0 00
				1 <i>Burwell.</i>

1	Burwell Common B.	293 0 00
2	Sir Robert Heath's Several grounds in Soham.	420 0 00
3	Lakingheath Severals B.	094 0 00
1	Townmoores, &c. M.	200 0 00
1	South Clond a Common of Laking- heath.	047 0 00
2	Mildenhall, &c. E.	300 0 00
3	Sir Miles Sandy's imbanked ground A. next Pr. houses.	070 0 00
3	Mr. Hawkyns Crouchmoore next Hale Fenn.	045 0 00
2	Weereham, Wretton, and Stoake Comon B. next towards Deereham.	200 0 00
3	Stilton Common.	160 0 00
2	West Fenn and West Fenn Close E.	500 0 00
4	Warbois, &c. D.	500 0 00
3	Upwood Fenn adjoyning to Whittle- sea way.	405 0 00
3	Sir Oliver Cromwell's Severals B.	069 0 00
2	Severals of Welney.	020 0 00
4	Severals of March and Doddington.	026 0 00
3	Westmoore North, &c. C.	050 0 00
2	Westmoore South, &c. E.	040 0 00

4000 0 00

Fourteenth Lott.

Sprts.		Acres.	f.	p.
2	Isleham Common D. — — —	200	0	00
3	Over Common. — — —	171	0	00
11	Wicken Sedge Fenn. — — —	300	0	00
2	Mr. Barrow's Sedgey Several. — — —	021	0	00
2	Fordham Common. — — —	027	0	00
2	Wickham Severals B. — — —	056	0	00
5	Crollode in Somersham. — — —	070	0	00
5	Helgey and Southerney Common E. — — —	282	0	00
3	Mildenhall, &c. F. — — —	325	0	00
2	Whelpmoore, &c. G. — — —	454	0	00
3	Sutton in Holland B. — — —	115	0	00
2	Horningsey High Fenn. — — —	100	0	00
4	Burroughmoore in March. — — —	500	0	00
2	Mr. Dr. Samm's Horsemoore im- banked. — — —	225	0	00
4	Stoney Fenn Several A. — — —	300	0	00
3	Warbois, &c. E. — — —	500	0	00
3	Ramsay Common by Delfe dike. — — —	108	0	00
4	Feltwell Severals B. — — —	146	0	00
3	Westmoore North, &c. S. — — —	050	0	00
2	Westmoore South, &c. D. — — —	050	0	00
		4000	0	00

Fifteenth

Fifteenth Lott.

Sorts		Acres. r. p.
4	Swafham High Fenn, B. ———	200 0 00
10	Hempstall in Wivelingham. ———	053 0 00
5	Sutton West Fenn, C. ———	117 0 00
4	Wisbich Common, B. ———	313 0 00
2	Burwell Common, C. ———	160 0 00
2	Great Metlam, Little Metlam, and the Hale in Soham, A. ———	500 0 00
1	Townemoores, &c. O. ———	200 0 00
2	Mildenhall, &c. G. ———	300 0 00
3	Thorney Farm by Stuntney. ———	047 0 00
4	Quaney Farm. ———	012 0 00
4	Richard Ward's Several in Little- port by Prall's Weare. ———	003 0 00
4	Several of Welney-Chappel in Lit- tleport. ———	001 0 00
4	Sutton in Holland, C. ———	095 0 00
5	Mr. Gibbon's ground in Southery lying by Priest's Houses. ———	020 0 00
5	Shevens in Well next to the Town of Upwell. ———	100 0 00
4	White Fenn in Swafham next Botsham High Fenn. ———	200 0 00
1	Normoore in Chartre, D. ———	410 0 00
4	Stoney Fenn Severals, B. ———	300 0 00
4	Warbois, &c. F. ———	500 0 00
4	Methwold Several. ———	357 0 00
	2 Several	

2	Several of Mr. <i>Strange</i> in <i>Londiners</i> Fenn. —————	} 012 0 00
3	<i>Westmoore</i> North, &c. L. —————	050 0 00
2	<i>Westmoore</i> South, &c. N. —————	050 0 00
		—————
		4000 0 00
		—————

Sixteenth Lott.

Sorts.	Acres. r. p.
4 <i>Waterbeach</i> , &c. B. —————	250 0 00
2 <i>Byall</i> Fenn, South of <i>Bedford</i> River } next to <i>Oxwillow</i> Load. ————	100 0 00
5 <i>Sutton</i> West Fenn, D. —————	020 0 00
1 <i>Wisbich</i> Common, lying between } <i>Moreton's Leame</i> & 25 foot Drain. }	424 2 00
6 The remainder of <i>Holme</i> Fenn } from the Earl of <i>Portland's</i> Part. }	049 0 00
3 <i>Helgey</i> and <i>Southercy</i> Commons, F. ————	300 0 00
1 <i>Lakingheath</i> Townmoors, &c. P. ————	295 0 00
1 <i>Mildenhall</i> , &c. I. —————	300 0 00
3 <i>Feltwell</i> South Fenn & <i>Mowe</i> Fenn, C. ————	166 0 00
2 <i>Sutton</i> in <i>Holland</i> , D. —————	115 0 00
5 <i>Maney</i> Common and Several. ————	250 0 00
4 <i>Normoore</i> in <i>Chartres</i> C. ————	400 0 00
4 <i>Great Bynningmoore</i> and <i>Graves</i> Fenn } in <i>Doddington</i> , lying next unto } <i>Graves</i> Fenn. —————	294 0 00
2 <i>Stoney</i> Fenn Several, C. ————	425 0 00
D	

4	Warbois, &c. G. ———	500	0	00
3	Severals of Doddington. ———	011	2	00
3	Westmoore North, &c. R. ———	050	0	00
2	Westmoore South, &c. I. ———	050	0	00

4000 0 00

Sebenteenth Lott.

Sorts.	Acres. r. p.
4 Waterbeach, &c. C. ———	201 3 00
2 Byall Fenn, &c. ———	100 0 00
4 Fidwell Fenn in Strettham. ———	060 0 00
11 Little Shelfould in Wivelingham. ———	007 1 00
11 By Erith Sluce. ———	002 0 00
4 Wisbich Common, A. ———	473 0 00
2 Great Metlam, &c. B. ———	500 0 00
2 Feltwell South Fenn and Mowe Fenn. ———	269 0 00
1 Hockwold and Wilton Common, C. ———	293 0 00
4 Ladus Fenn, F. ———	105 0 00
2 Mr. Pratt's Several in Hockwold. ———	010 0 00
4 Shevens next towards Welney. ———	100 0 00
1 White Fenn next towards the } Hard Lands. ———	211 0 00
2 Wich Fenn & Stow Fenn in March. ———	200 0 00
3 Dicamoore, B. ———	200 0 00
3 Stoney Fenn Severals, D. ———	300 0 00
3 Warbois, &c. H. ———	500 0 00
4 Mr. Peyton's Severals by Hobb's } Dike in March. ———	133 0 20

4	<i>Peter Williams</i> adjoining <i>Severals</i> .---	034	2	10
3	<i>White's Fenn</i> a <i>Several</i> by <i>Benwick</i> .--	119	1	00
4	<i>Browne's Fenn</i> by <i>Benwick</i> a <i>Seve-</i>	} 050	0	20
	<i>ral</i> by <i>Dr. Samms</i> . -----			
5	<i>Severals</i> of <i>Well</i> and <i>Welney</i> . -----	030	3	30
3	<i>Westmoore North</i> , &c. <i>U</i> .-----	050	0	00
2	<i>Westmoore South</i> , &c. <i>B</i> .-----	050	0	00
<hr/>				
				4060 0 00
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Eighteenth Lott.

Sorts.		Acres.	r.	p.
4	Neatmoore, C. ——— ——— ———	250	0	00
5	Wicken High Fenn. ——— ——— ———	030	0	00
6	Langmoore and Botsgangs in Strettham.	017	2	00
5	Sutton West Fenn E. ——— ——— ———	073	2	00
4	Wisbich Common, C. ——— ——— ———	473	0	00
2	Soham Commons in Great Met-	} 569	0	00
	lam, &c. C. ——— ——— ———			
6	Two Severals of Soham. ——— ——— ———	009	0	00
2	Hocwold and Wilton Common. ——— ——— ———	182	0	00
2	Mildenhall, &c. H. ——— ——— ———	300	0	00
3	Mr. Gibbons ground called Warners, B.	075	0	00
3	Throcken holt, B. ——— ——— ———	040	0	00
6	Ashwellmoore by Coveney, the South-	} 271	0	00
	west part. ——— ——— ———			
2	Rough Westmoore in Chartres A. }	} 300	0	00
	next Chartres. ——— ——— ———			
D 2				
4 Horse-				

4	<i>Horsemoore, C.</i>	— — —	200	0	00
3	<i>Warbois, &c. I.</i>	— — —	500	0	00
3	<i>Middlemoore, D.</i>	— — —	300	0	00
3	<i>Great Bynnimoores and Grays Fenn</i>	} next toward the River Neane. ---	200	0	00
2	<i>Marmonda Several in Upwell.</i>				
6	<i>The Several Ground in Well by</i>	} <i>News Core.</i> — — —	017	3	00
5	<i>The Severals of Doddington.</i>				
3	<i>Westmoore North, &c. P.</i>	— — —	050	0	00
2	<i>Westmoore South, &c. F.</i>	— — —	050	0	00
			4000 0 00		

Nineteenth Lott.

Sorts.		Acres. r. p.
7	<i>Waterbeach Fenn by Garden Tree.</i>	— 112 0 00
9	<i>Cottenham Common.</i>	— — — 240 0 00
6	<i>Sutton in the Meadlands next to-</i>	} 018 0 00
	<i>wards West Fenn.</i>	
4	<i>Wisbich Common. D.</i>	— — — 473 0 00
2	<i>Mildenhall, &c. K.</i>	— — — 300 0 00
3	<i>Whelpmoore, &c. H.</i>	— — — 760 0 00
2	<i>Mr. Towers Crouchmoore in Littleport.</i>	070 0 00
3	<i>Part of Mr. Hawkyns Crouchmoore</i>	} 010 0 00
	<i>adjoyning.</i>	
3	<i>Throckenholt, C.</i>	— — — 035 0 00
6	<i>Ashwellmoore next unto Downeham</i>	} 152 0 00
	<i>West Fenn.</i>	
		3 Rough

3	Rough Westmoore in Chartres, B.	}	296	0	00
	next Beezling's Fenn. ———				
4	Dicamoore, C. ———		200	0	00
3	Warbois, &c. K. ———		550	0	00
3	Middlemoore in Ramsay, E. -----		375	0	00
4	Feltwell Severals, C. ———		309	0	00
3	Westmoore North, &c. L. ———		050	0	00
2	Westmoore South, &c. Q. ———		050	0	00
			<u>4000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>00</u>

Twentieth Lott.

Sorts.	Acres.	r.	p.
3 Thorney Knarr Fenn. ———	3900	0	00
3 Westmoore North, &c. ———	050	0	00
2 Westmoore South, &c. L. ———	050	0	00
	<u>4000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>00</u>

The Three Thousand Acres Overplus.

2 Woodwalton Common. ———	937	0	00
3 Higney Grounds. ———	100	0	00
6 Part of Holme Fennl ———	963	0	00
4 Part of Byall Fenn, &c. ———	1000	0	00
	<u>3000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>00</u>

Note, That when a Tax of 5000 l. is raised on the 95000 Acres (which is called a single Tax, then the first sort Land is taxed 4 d. per Acre ; and so on to Eleven Groats. D 3 The

The Division of the LEVEL into Three Levels.

THIS Great Level the Works thereof have divided the same so as it lyeth in *Three Levels*; and are now called by the Names of

The { *North*
Middle
and
South } Level.

North Level.

The ~~North~~ Level lyeth between the River *Welland*, and ~~the River~~ *Moreton's Leame*, and bears in Proportion of the Draining Taxes of the whole 95000 Acres, about a Sixth part of the Tax.

The *Banks*, *Rivers*, and *Drains* maintained by the said Corporation in this part of the Level, are, viz.

The

The *Bank* against *Welland River* from *Peakirk* to the *Barrs* at the *West* end of *Crowland*, and the *Weare Dike* to the same.

Weareington new *Drain* , with its *Banks* and *Weare Dike*.

The *Drain* called the *Stoor-nook Drain* from *Stoor nook* to the *Adventurers Lands* in *Borrow Great Fenn*, and from thence by the *Outring Dike* of the said *Adventurers Lands* to the *East Corner* thereof , and from thence by *Pepper Lake* to *New South Ea*, and from thence by the *New South Ea*, to *Clows Cross* , and from thence by the *Shier Drain* to the *Sea*.

The *Wride Stream*.

The *Eighteen foot Drain* through *Murrow Common* to *Clows Cross*.

The *Old South Ea* from *Guyburne Corner* to *Clows Cross*.

Thorney Dike from *Catswater* by *Willow-Hall*, as far as the *Sasse* in the *North Bank* of *Moreton's Leame*.

The *North Bank* of *Moreton's Leame* and *Weare Dikes*.

The *Middle Level* lyeth between the *Middle Level* ~~North Bank~~ of *Moreton's Leame*, and the *North Bank* of *Bedford River*, and bears

in proportion of the *Draining Taxes* about a Twenty fifth part.

The *Banks, Rivers, or Drains* in this part of the *Level* now maintained by the *Corporation*, are,

The *South Bank* of *Moreton's Leame* and *Weare Dikes*.

Standground Sasse.

The *Old course* of the *River Neane* from *Standground Sasse* to *Well Creek Sasse*, with the *Sasses* at *Floods Ferrey* near *Whittlesea Dike's* end, and the *Sasse* at the lower end of *Well Creek*.

Whittlesea Dike.

Bevill's Leame from *Whittlesea Meer* to the *Sasse* near *Baldwin Glossom's House*, at the lower end of *Waldersea Receptacle*.

Moore's Drain from *Bevill's Leame* to the *Old Neane* below *March*.

The *Delfe Dike* from *Whittlesea* to the *Old Neane*.

New Dike from *Connington Brook* at the upper Corner of to *Hooke Load*.

And *Hooke Load* to the *Old Neane* by *Burbridge Stream* into the *Old Neane*.

Monke's Load.

The *Drain* from *Raveley's Nook* to *Burbridge Stream*, between *Woodwalton Common*, and *Ramsay and Raveley Common*.

The

The Forty foot *Drain* from the *West Outring Dike* of the *Adventurers Lands*, taken out of *Doddington*, *Warbois*, *Ramsey*, &c. to *Welche's Damm*.

The *West water* from the Forty foot through *Benwick*.

The *Drain* leading from *Chartres Ferrey* to *Slade Gate*, and so to the Forty foot *Drain*.

The Twenty foot *Drain* from *Erith Common* to *Well Creek*, with the *Bank* thereof, and *Sluces* therein.

That part of the *West water* from *Somerham Town* by *Helwoods* and *Middlemore*, and so to the *Counter wash* between the Twenty foot *Bank*, and the *North Bank* of *Bedford River*, with the *Sluces* and *Tunnels* therein.

Hammond's Ea from the *Adventurers Lands* in *Somerham High Fenn* to the Twenty foot *Drain* aforesaid.

Old Bedford River, with the *Bank* thereof, from *Erith* to the *Old Onze*, with the *Sluces* thereunto belonging.

The Sixteen foot *Drain*, from the Thirty foot *Drain* to *Popham's Ea*.

Darcy Load from the Sixteen foot *Drain* to *Maid Load*, and so to the Twenty foot *Drain*.

Popham's

Popham's Ea , with the Brick Sluce therein.

London's Load , with a *Drain* through *Londiners Fenn* to the Twenty foot *Drain*, called *Fortrey's Drain*.

The *Drain* called the *Tongs* from *Nor-del Sluce* through *Downeham Common* to the Sluce at the end thereof near *Stow Town's* end, with the Sluces and Tunnels to the same belonging.

South Le-
vel.

The *South Level* is from the North Bank of Old *Bedford River* to *Stoake*, *Feltwell* , *Mildenhall* , and that part of the Up land Countrey there adjoyning, and bears in Proportion of the *Draining Taxes* about a Seventeenth part.

The *Banks* , *Rivers* , and *Drains* in this *Level* maintained by the said Corporation are as followeth, viz.

South Bank of the *River Ouze*, from the Hard Lands of *Swacey*, &c. to the *Hermitage* and the *Sasse* or *Sluce* there.

The *River* called *New Bedford River*, from the *Hermitage* to *Salters Load*, with the *Banks*, *Forelands*, *Weare Dikes*, and *Sluces* thereof.

The *Drain* that leads from *Ewel-Fenn* to *Audrey Causey* , and from thence into

into the *Old Ouze* at *Audrey Bridge*.

Grunty Fenn Drain, from *Grunty Fenn* to the *Old Ouze* at *Littleport Chair*, with its *Banks*.

Part of *Old Welney River*.

Littleport Drain.

Maid Load and *Modney Drain*, with the *Sluces* to the same.

The *Drain* that carries away *Hoggington Brook*, with the *Banks* to be raised.

The *River of Grant*, from *Clay-hith* to *Harrimeere*, with the *Banks*, *Forelands*, *Weare Dikes*, and *Sluces* thereof.

The *Banks* of the *Old Ouze*, from *Harrimeere* to *Chitterings*.

The *New long Drain*, from *Wicken High Fenn* to the *Tunnels* under *Soham new River*, and so to the *Tunnel* under *Mildenhall River*; from thence to the *Tunnel* under *Brandon River*, and so to the *Tunnel* under *Wissay* or *Stoake River*; and from thence through *Downham's Ea* to the *Sluces* at the lower end thereof, near *Stow Bridge*.

The *East Banks* of *Ouze*, from *Harrimeere* to the *Brick Sluce* at *Prick-willow*, with the *Weare Dike* thereof.

The *New Bank* on the *West* side of the *River Ouze*, from *Harrimeere* to *Ely High Bridge*.

The

The *Drain* from the East end of the *Adventurers Lands*, taken out of *Soham Common*, to the *Weare Dike* of *Mildenhall River*.

Mildenhall River, with the *Banks*, *Forelands*, and *Weare Dikes* thereof.

The East *Banks* of the *River Ouze*, from *Mildenhall River* to the *Sluce* at the lower end of *Mildenhall Drain*, near *Littleport Chair*.

Mildenhall Drain from the last mentioned *Sluce* to *Mildenhall Common*.

The *River of Ouze*, with the *Banks*, *Forelands*, *Weare Dikes*, *Sluces* and *Tunnels* thereof, from *Littleport Chair* to *Denver Damm*, Excepting the *Sluces*, *Tunnels* and *Waterworks* heretofore made and maintained by *Edmund Skipwith Esq;* deceased, and others particular Owners of Lands within or near the said *Great Level*, for his or their own private Use or Benefit.

Lakingheath Drain, from *Wainsford Brook* to the *Tunnel* under *Lakingheath New Load*, and so to the *Tunnels* under *Brandon River*.

Brandon River, with the *Banks*, *Forelands*, and *Weare Dikes* thereto belonging.

Feltwell

Feltwell Drain to its Outfall into the *River of Ouze*, at *Palmer's House*.

Sam's Cutt from *Feltwell* to the *River Ouze*.

Stoake River, with the *Banks*, *Forelands*, *Weare Dikes*, and *Sluces*.

A *Tunnel* under *Methwold Load* for the *Draining* of *Norwold Fens*.

Roxham Drain, with the *Banks* thereof.

These *Works* and *Drains*, and such others as the *Corporation* shall think fit, are from time to time preserved and maintained at the *Costs* and *Charges* of the said *Corporation* and their *Successors*, *Owners* of the said *Ninety five Thousand Acres* mentioned in the aforesaid *Act*, 15 *Car. 2.* and not by the *Owners* of any the *Lands* within the said *Great Level*, other than of the said *Ninety five Thousand Acres*; Except in *Cases* where particular *Contracts* have been made by the said *Corporation*.

And the said *Corporation*, as *Commissioners of Sewers*, for the better *Draining* and *Preservation* of the *Country*, Pursuant to the *Act of Parliament*, hath made several

By-Laws made by the Corporation.

several Orders and By-Laws, which all Persons concerned therein are bound to take Notice of.

The Chief thereof are these :

That all and every other the *Drain*
Division Dikes, and *Fence Dikes* between
Counties, Lords of Mannors, Parishes,
Townships, and particular Owners, and
the *Fence Dikes* of every Parish, Hamlet,
or Township, between their *Fences* and
their *Corn Fields*, and between their *Feed-*
fenns and *Mowe-fenns*, and between the
Severals and *Commons*, shall be kept and
maintained with all Necessary Repara-
tions from time to time, at the proper
Costs and Charges of the Owners, Oc-
cupiers or Persons interested in the *Fenns*
and *Grounds* next adjoyning thereunto;
or that have heretofore, or of right
ought to do the same, at their Ancient
or Present Dimensions, or so as the
Court of Sewers shall from time to time
direct and appoint for the better Con-
veyance of the *Waters* of the said *Level*
into the *Great Rivers*, or to their *Outfall*
at *Sea*.

That

That no Person or Persons shall at any time hereafter upon, any Pretence, or by any ways or means whatsoever, make any Encroachment upon or straiten the present Dimensions of any *River, Wash, Drain or Sewers*, within or without the said *Great Level*; Nor shall Cut, Burn, Cast down, Break up, or do any hurt or damage to any *River, Bank, Wash or Foreland*, within the said *Great Level*, or without the said *Great Level*, made by the said *Earl and Participants*, or the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators; nor shall Cut, Damme, Burn, Cast down, Break open, or do any hurt or damage unto any *Sluce, Sasse, Lock, Tunnel, Bridge, Gate or Rail* made within or without the said *Great Level*, for, or conducing to the *Draining* of the said *Great Level*, or the Preservation thereof, otherwise than by Order or Decree of the Commissioners of Sewers for the time being, appointed by the said Act; Nor shall make, or cause to be made, any *Damms, Stops, Weares*, or other *Letts, Impediments or Nuseances*, in, or without any of the *Rivers, Drains, Out-rig Dikes, Sewers, Washes, Forelands*, or other Work made within or without the said

said *Great Level*, for the *Draining* of the said *Great Level*, or Preservation thereof; Nor shall encroach upon, straiten or do any hurt or damage to any *Drove way* within the said *Great Level*, set out upon Occasion of the *Draining* of the same.

And that no Person or Persons shall at any time hereafter make, or cause to be made, any Waterings or Place for Watering of Cattle within Ten foot of any the said *Rivers*, Publick *Drains*, or any *Outring* or *Division Dike*, or *Lott, Division Dike*, within the said *Level*, to the stopping, Annoyance or Prejudice of them or any of them, or of any part of them or any of them; the which are declared to be Nuseances.

And that no Person or Persons whatsoever, shall at any time hereafter put, or cause any *Swine* to be put or kept, into, or upon any of the *Banks* or *Forelands* of any of the *Rivers* or *Sewers* within or without the said *Great Level* made as aforesaid, or used as conducing to the Preservation of the same, under such Penalties as the said Commissioners of Sewers shall think fit to Charge on such Offenders.

Moſt

Most of the *Commons* in the *Map* described, out of which the 95000 Acres were taken, are (by the *Cowntrey*) in Pursuance of the Act 15 *Car. 2.* lately divided and enjoyed as *Severals* to particular Owners and Commoners of each respective Towns to which those *Commons* belonged. And others finding that such Division and Cutting of the *Commons*, proved a great wast of Ground, and the Fences hard to be kept, and great diminution of Stock, and decay of Houses; many Selling their Lands from the same, to the increasing of the Poor. Therefore they would not divide, but have by Agreement decreed in *Chancery* the same by way of a *Stint* to feed the same, every House alike; so that in some Towns there is above 2000 Milch Cows, besides a great running Stock fed thereon, viz. *Cottenham*, *Chartresse*, *March*, *Wimblington*, *Maney*, and other Towns to their great Improvement and Enriching. Though some few People that had formerly nothing to live on, but what they got by Fishing and Fowling; and some discontented Persons, that would neither do themselves good, or suffer others, are apt to clamour against

E

The great Advantage that the Draining is to the respective Places within the Level.

gainst this Noble Work of *Draining*, and the Undertakers thereof. But if they would but seriously Consider the small Benefit formerly made, and the great Advantage now ; The Profit given the Undertakers, was not considerable to the Charge and Hazard, which they have been at and still must be for the yearly maintaining the *Level*, (to the Ruine of several of the first Original *Undertakers*) the Undertakers can be blamed for nothing save Indiscretion to hazard their Estates so much for the good of the Publick.

*complaint
in 1653.
against the
Drainiog.*

There was a Complaint in 1653. made by some Persons against this *Undertaking*, alledging that it was as much worth before the *Draining* in *Reed* and *Sedge* as since ; Whereupon there was then an *Estimate* given in of what was that year made, when but about 28000 Acres of the aforesaid *Fenn Grounds*, was Drained and made Use of, being sown with Coleseed, Wheat, Barley, Oats, and Flax ; which is now here offered to Consideration.

Every

Every Acre for Hassocking
 burning the Hassocks, Plowing
 Burning the Soord, and sowing
 with Coleseed, cost 1 l. which
 came into the hands of such as
 would work, whether Poor or
 Rich. —————

	l.	s.	d.
	28000	00	00

Every Acre of Seed, Wheat,
 Barley or Oats that were sown,
 being near 10000 Acres, cost in
 Seed 8 s. per Acre, which came
 to the hands of the Countrey. —

	04000	00	00
--	-------	----	----

The small Division Dikes since
 the Adjudication came clear to
 the poor Labourers. —————

	08000	00	00
--	-------	----	----

Expended for Timber, Car-
 penters, Bricklayers, and other
 Labourers in Building Houses
 above. —————

	10000	00	00
--	-------	----	----

The Reaping, Threshing and
 Carriage of Coleseed to be fit for
 the Boats, to poor Labourers at
 3 l. per Last. —————

	25000	00	00
--	-------	----	----

The Reaping, Threshing, and
 Carriage of Wheat, Rye, Oats,
 Barley, and Flax, to Labourers. —

	05000	00	00
--	-------	----	----

The Carriage of far above
5000 Last of Coleseed, and above
1000 of Wheat and other Com- } 02700 00 00
modities to the Watermen of
Lynn and *Wisbich*. ———— }

The Transportation by Wa- }
ter of Materials for Houses to } 00300 00 00
Watermen, and other Works. — }

The Chambering of 3000 Last }
at the least in *Lynn* and there- } 00650 00 00
abouts at 4 *d.* the Last per Week }
for 13 Weeks. ———— }

At *Lynn* to Meeters and Por- }
ters at 12 *d.* per Last. ———— } 00150 00 00

100 Last of Seed, Wheat, and }
other Grain to *London*, and other } 10000 00 00
Parts by Shipping. ———— }

There was also in order for }
the next year expended to Work }
men and Labourers in Hassocking, } 30000 00 00
Plaining, Burning, Sowing, and }
of Cropps. ———— }

The State in Custom, Excise, }
and Impost for Coleseed, Oyl, } 05000 00 00
and otherwise. ———— }

By which (besides the great Charge of *Draining*
this year) it appears there is expended,

To

To the Labourers, Workmen,	}	95000	00	00
and others. —————	}			
In <i>Lym</i> , Chambers, Porters,	}	03600	00	00
and Workmen. —————	}			
The Shipping. —————		10000	00	00
The State. —————		05000	00	00

These are the Advantages }
 which have accrued to the State,
 the Countrey, and the Poor this
 year, by a small Quantity of a- }
 bout 28000 Acres, besides the } 113600 00 00
 intrinsical Commodities them- }
 selves produced by this charge to }
 the Kingdom, not here set down. -- } 0

And if above 100000*l.* Advantage
 ariseth by so small a Quantity under so
 many Discouragements, a good Common-
 wealth's man will easily Judge what An-
 nual Profit and Benefit redounds to
 this Nation by the Improvement of the
 whole.

*The Governor, Bailiffs, and Con-
servators for the present year
1684. are as followeth,*

*The Go-
vernor.*

*The Right Honorable William
Earl of Bedford, Baron of
Thornhaugh, and Knight of
the most Noble Order of the
Garter.*

*The Six
Bailiffs.*

*The Right Honorable Arthur
Earl of Anglesey.*

*The Right Honorable Richard
Lord Gorges, Baron of Dun-
dalke in the Kingdom of Ire-
land.*

*The Right Honorable Sir Tho-
mas Chicheley Knight, Chan-
cellor of the Dutchy, and one
of His Majestie's most Hono-
rable Privy Council.*

Sir Lionel Walden Knight.

Rob. Hamson Serjeant at Law.

L Roger Jenyns, Esq;

The

The twenty
Conser-
vators.

Sir *Thomas Willis* Baronet.
Sir *Henry North* Baronet.
Sir *John Hewett* Baronet.
Sir *Nicholas Pedley* Knight.
Sir *John Chicheley* Knight.
Sir *Thomas Fitch* Knight.
Doctor *William Denton*.
Silius Titus Esq;
Ralph Widdrington Esq;
Richard Marryott Esq;
George Nicholas Esq;
Thomas Wright Esq;
Samuel Fortrey Esq;
Lionel Walden Esq;
Edward Woodward Esq;
John Fincham Esq;
John Jenyns Esq;
Christopher Cratford Gent.
William Bagnall Gent.
Robert Mingay Gent.

*The Chief Officers of the Corpora-
tion are,*

The Right Honorable *Richard L. Gor-
ges*, Surveyor General, and Superintendant
of all other the Officers, He issueth out
his Warrants by Order of the Corpo-
ration,

ration, for all Moneys by them expended, And from time to time receives an Accompt from the respective Officers how the Affairs of the Corporation are carried on; and reports the same to the Corporation at their Publick Meetings.

Richard Marryott Esq; Auditor of the Accompts.

Richard Bland Gent. Register.

Robert Mingay Gent. Receiver.

William Bourne Gent. Serjeant at Mace.

Mark le Pla Surveyor of the North Level.

Samuel Fortrey Esq; } Surveyors of the
and the said } Middle Level.
William Bourne,

Ralph Pierston Gentleman Surveyor of the South Level.

The Officers take all Oaths, Well and truly to Execute their respective Offices.

And the Surveyors of the respective Levels take also this Oath following, Viz.

YOU shall Swear that you shall well and truly serve this
Cor.

Corporation in the Office of Surveyor of Level under your Charge, and shall make all your Contracts in the most Husbandly manner, and at the Cheapest Rates you can for this said Corporation; and shall not Certifie any Floozing Work, Bank Work, or Rodd Work to be done, but what is or shall be supervised and taken up in your Presence, and according to the real Truth of the Work done and Value thereof to the best of your Knowledge and Understanding, and that you shall faithfully and truly Execute and Perform all other Matters and things relating to your Office, Trust, and Employment, for the Benefit and Advantage of the said Corporation, according to the best of your Skill, Knowledge and Understanding. So help you God.

F I N I S.

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POSTSCRIPT
OF THE
BOOKSELLER
TO THE
READER.

I Have had come to my hands the Verses following, which I find were formerly writ on this Subject by some Ingenious hand; And therefore I thought it might not be amiss to annex them hereunto.

A

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D
C
—
C
P
A

A TRUE and NATURAL
 DESCRIPTION
 OF THE
 Great Level
 OF THE
 FENNS.

I Sing no Battels fought, nor Armies foil'd,
 Nor Cities raz'd, nor Commonwealths embroil'd,
 Nor any History, which may move your tears,
 Or raise your Spleens, or multiply your Fears;
 But I bespeak your wonder, your delight,
 And would your Emulation fain invite.

I sing Floods muzled, and the Ocean tam'd,
 Luxurious Rivers govern'd, and reclam'd,
 Waters with Banks confin'd, as in a Gaol,
 Till kinder Sluces let them go on Bail ;
 Streams curb'd with Dammes like Bridles, taught
 t' obey,
 And run as strait, as if they saw their way.

I sing of heaps of Water turn'd to Land,
 Like an *Elixir* by the Chymists hand
 Of Dropsies cur'd, where not one Limb was
 found,
 The Liver rotted, all the Vitals drown'd.
 No late discover'd Isle, nor Old Plantation
 New Christ'ned, but a kind of New Creation.

I sing of heaps of Gold, and Indian Ore,
 Of private Profit, and of Publick Store ;
 No fine Romance, nor Fables I invent,
 Nor coyn *Utopia's*, but a Scene present,
 Which with such rare, yet real blis doth Swell,
 As would perswade a Monk to leave his Cell.

I sing of an Atchievment, from above,
 Both Blest and Crown'd, which God and good Men
 Love,
 Which Kings and States encourage and protect
 With Prudent Power, which none can disaffect,

But

But the poor Fish, who now wants room to play,
Hassocks, and Men with Heads more rough than
they.

Go on, Brave *Undertakers*, and Succeed,
In spite of Brutish Clamours, take no heed
To those that curse your Generous labours ; he
That good refrains, 'cause Men unthankful be,
Mistakes true Vertues aim, each worthy Act
Doth a Reward, beyond Applause, expect.

Make universal Plenty, and restore
What Ten years Wars have ruin'd ; let the
Poor

Share your wise Alms, some will, perhaps, confess
Their Obligation, and your Vertues blefs ;
But if the present Age forget their Friends,
Be sure, Posterity will make amends.

They'll be indifferent Judges, at what Rates,
And with what Arts you purchas'd your Estates,
They will not grudge that you took so much
Land,

But wonder, why you did not more demand ;
They'l candidly believe, that Publick Zeal
Had more of Influence here, than Private Weal.

When by your Noble Pattern, and Success,
Taught and encourag'd, all Men shall profess

A hate of Sloth, and so the Sea shall more
 Feel your Example, than your Skill before,
 Whilst all to work that Publick Tyrant's bane,
 At once Conspire, as if he were a *Dane*.

When such as have no Wit, but to defame
 All generous Works, and blast them with the
 Name
 Of giddy Projects, are describ'd to be
 But Slaves to Custom, Friends to Popery,
 And ranckt with those, who, lest they should
 accuse
 Their Sires, no harness, but the Tail, will use.

When to your Glory, all your Banks shall stand
 Like the immortal Pyramide, and your Land
 Forget it e're was Sea, when those dull Wits,
 That Judge by Sence, become time's Profelytes,
 And such as know no other Argument,
 Shall be at last confuted by th' Event.

When *Bedford's* stately Bank, and noble Drain;
 Shall Parallel the Streights of *Magellane*,
 Or *Hercules* his Pillars, in due Fame,
 Because they wear your Livery in their Name,
 And your Renown shall snare the Bays with
 theirs,
 Who, in times past, built Amphitheatres.

When

When Cities shall be built, and Housetall,
 As the proud Oak, which you their Founders call,
 Fair Orchards Planted, and the Myrtle Grove,
 Adorn'd, as if it were the Scene of Love.
 Gardens with Flowers of such auspicious hew,
 You'd swear, that *Eden* in the Desert grew.

When it appears, the All-sufficient Soyl,
 With Primitive Strength, yields as much Corn
 as Oyl,
 To make our Hearts strong, as our Faces gay,
 Meadows so blest with Grass, so charg'd with
 Hay,
 With goodly Kine, and Beeves replenisht so,
 As if they stood upon the Banks of *Ro*.

When all dire Vapours (if there any were,
 Besides the Peoples breath) are turn'd to Air,
 Pure as the Upper Region; and the Sun,
 Shall shine like one well pleas'd with what is
 done,
 When *Agues, Scurveys, Coughs, Consumptions, Wind,*
 All Crude Distempers here their Cure shall find.

When with the change of Elements, suddenly
 There shall a change of Men and Manners be;
 Hearts, thick and tough as Hydes, shall feel Re-
 morse,
 And Souls of Sedge shall understand Discourse,
 F New

New hands shall learn to Work, forget to Steal,
New legs shall go to Church, new knees shall
kneel.

When *Ouse* proves *Helicon*, when the *Neen* for-
sake

Their lofty Mountain, and themselves betake
To this delicious Vale, when Caps and Gowns
Are seen at *Wisbich*; when for sordid Clowns,
And savage *Scythians*, There Succeeds a Race,
Worthy the Bliss and Genius of the place.

What Trophies will you Purchase then? what
Bays

Will ye acquire? what Acclamations raise?
What greater Satisfaction? what Reward
Of higher price, can all the World afford,
Than in a Work of such Renown and Merit,
T' engross the Glory, and the bliss t' inherit?

Mean while proceed, and Opposition slight,
Envy perhaps may bark, it cannot bite.

Your Cause is good, your Friends are great, your
Foes

Have neither Power nor Colour, to oppose.

Rubbs you may meet with; why should that
displease?

Would you accomplish Vast designs with Ease?

But

But vainly I, with weak insinuations,
Your Wisdoms importune ; such fond perswa-
sions

Fit none but drooping Minds , whom fears op-
press ;

No terrour ; no alarm can you possess,
Who, free from sinful *Canaanites* annoy,
The Land of Promise, now in part enjoy.

Your Proudest foes begin to sue for Peace,
And with their hopes, their malice doth decrease;
They all confess , that Heaven with you Com-
bines,

Sit down therefore in safety. Your designs
Begun with Vertue, shall with Fortune, end,
For Profit publick thoughts do still attend.

And now a Muse as fruitful as the Land,
Assist me, whilst my too unskilful hand
Describes the Glories of this Place, a Skill
Which might perhaps deserve some Laureats
Quill.

But I presume, the Reader's Charity
And wise Conjecture will my faults supply.

All Seeds, all Plants and Herbs, this Noble field
Doth, with a kind of Emulation, yield ;
Would you see Plenty, It is stor'd with Grain,
Like *Egypt* when *Romes* Pride it did maintain,

With roots of Monstrous bulk, flesh, fowl, and fish,
All that the Belly or the Taste can wish.

Here thrives the lusty Hemp, of Strength untam'd,
Whereof vast Sails, and mighty Cables fram'd,
Serve for our Royal Fleets, Flax soft and fine
To the East Countreys envy, could we joyn
To *England's* Blessings, *Holland's* industry,
We all the World in wealth should far outvie.

Here grows proud Rape, whose price and plenty
foyls

The *Greenland* Trade, and checks the *Spanish* Oyls,
Whose branch thick, large, and tall, the Earth so
shrowds,

As heaps of Snow, the *Alps*, or pregnant Clouds,
The azure Sky, or like that Heavenly Bread,
Which in the Wilderness God's bounty shed.

After long Tillage, it doth then abound
With Grass so plentiful, so sweet, so sound,
Scarce any tract but this can Pastures shew
So large, so rich, And, if you wisely Sow
The fine *Dutch* Clover, with such Beauty spreads,
As if it meant t' affront our *English* Meads.

The Gentle Ozier, plac't in goodly ranks,
At small Expence, upon the comely Banks,

Shoots

Shoots forth to admiration here, and yields
 Revenues certain, as the Rents of Fields,
 And for a Crown unto this blest Plantation,
 Almost in every Ditch, there's Navigation.

To scan all its Perfections, would desire
 A Volume, and as great a Skill require,
 As that which Drayn'd the Countrey ; in one
 word,

It yields whate're our Climate will afford ;
 And did the Sun with kinder beams reflect,
 You might Wine, Sugar, Silk and Spice expect.

Fond witless Usurer, to rest content
 In that thy Money yields thee 6 per Cent,
 Which thou with hazard of the Principal,
 Dost rigorously extort from Men in thrall,
 Come here, and look for gain both vast and just,
 And yet so constant, that thou need'st not trust.

Unhappy Farmer that employ'st thy Skill,
 And wasts thy Strength upon some barren Hill,
 Which too ungrateful, scarce the borrowed Seed
 At length restores, much less relieves thy need.
 These Fields shall yield thee Gold, And yet require
 No labour, but the Alchymie of Fire.

Poor Curate, whom thine envious Stars prefer
 To be some hide-bound Parsons Pensioner,

On

On such hard Terms, that if thy Flock were fed
 As ill as thou, their Souls might starve for Bread;
 When these fair Fields are Plow'd, then cast with
 me
 How large, how fat, the Livings here must be.

Ye busie Gentlemen, that plant the Hop,
 And dream vast gains from that deceitful Crop,
 Or by manuring what you ought to Let
 Thrive backwards, and too dearly purchase Wit,
 Leave off these Lotteries, and here take your Lot;
 The Profit's certain, and with ease, 'tis got.

Courageous Merchants, who, confronting fates,
 Trust Seas and Pyrates with your whole Estates,
 Part in this Bank, methinks were far more sure;
 And ye, whom hopes of sudden Wealth allure,
 Or wants into *Virginia*, force to fly,
 Ev'n spare your pains; here's *Florida* hard by.

Fair Damsels, that your Portions would advance,
 Employ them on this blest Inheritance;
 And faithful Guardians, that would quit the trust
 In you repos'd, like Men, as wise as just,
 Here, here, bestow your Orphans Talents, ye
 Shall now no longer Friends, but Fathers be.

All ye that Treasures either want, or love
 (And who is he, whom Profit will not move?)
 Wou'd

Would you repair your fortunes, would you
 make,
 To this most fruitful Land your selves betake,
 Where first your Money doubles, in a trice,
 And then by new Progression, multiplies.

If therefore Gain, or Honour, or Delight,
 Or care of Publick Good, will Men invite
 Into this fortunate Isle, now let them enter
 With confidence; since here they all concenter;
 But if all these be choakt, and drown'd with
 flegm,
 Let them enjoy their Sloth, sit still, and dream.

FINIS.
